AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:

a housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface with a channel that protrudes from the housing, said channel having a first surface that is substantially parallel to, and opposed from, said source-contact surface, said channel having a second surface substantially orthogonal to the first surface; and

a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the first and second surfaces of the channel form an aperture for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned.

2. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein a portion of the vertical source-contact surface of the housing comprises a platen to permit scanning of a source document in a vertical position.

3. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein a front panel of the housing includes an inclined surface adjacent to the aperture.

4. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes an inclined surface adjacent to the aperture.

5. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes a slot.

6. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the source-backing surface of the flap includes a clip arranged to receive a portion of a source document to be scanned.

7. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a recess configured to receive a portion of the channel when an operator closely adjusts the source contact surface to the substantially vertical surface of the housing.

8. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the platen has an upper edge, an opposing lower edge, a front edge relatively coexistent with a front panel of the housing, and a distal edge and wherein the channel is adjacent to the lower edge of the platen.

9. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the channel has a first end proximal to a front panel of the housing and a distal end that extends at least to an edge of the platen.

10. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one post assembly having a plurality of spatially separated detent positions.

11. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one adjustable fastener for closely contacting the source-backing surface to the vertical source-contact surface.

12. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the slot is positioned to permit the placement of a relatively short source document on edge on the channel wherein information to be scanned is aligned with at least a portion of a platen.

13. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 7, wherein the housing is configured to extend the channel from the vertical source-contact surface when an operator adjusts the source-backing surface in relation to the vertical source-contact surface of the housing to increase the width of the aperture.

14. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the width of a first end of the channel proximal to a front panel of the housing increases over that portion of the channel that extends beyond the platen.

15. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 9, wherein the channel is coated with a layer of material having a relatively low coefficient of friction.

16. (Currently amended) A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:

means for housing an optical ~~scanner~~ scanning means; and

means for forming an aperture configured to closely receive a leading edge of a source, such that the source can be spatially arranged with the ~~means for optically~~ optical scanning means without adjusting the aperture, the source being supported along a second edge of said source along a channel means when the source is aligned with the means for optically scanning while in the aperture and spatially arranged with the means for optically scanning, wherein said channel means protrudes from said means for housing and comprises a source-retaining means substantially parallel to, and opposed from, said optical ~~scanner~~ scanning means and a source support means substantially orthogonal to said source retaining means.

17. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the source retaining means of said channel means extends vertically from a base of said channel means and said source support means is substantially parallel to said base of said channel means.

18. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the means for forming an aperture comprises a flap having a slot.

19. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the means for forming an aperture comprises a first inclined surface associated with a housing and a second inclined surface associated with a flap.

20. (Previously presented) A method for saving space on a desktop, comprising:

providing an optical scanner having a housing, the housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface with a channel protruding from the housing, the channel having a surface that is substantially parallel to, and opposed from, said source-contact surface, the vertical source-contact surface including a transparent platen portion, wherein the channel is adjacent to a lower edge of the transparent platen portion and further comprises a second surface substantially orthogonal to the first surface; and

providing a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the and second surfaces of the channel form an aperture for receiving a source to be scanned.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising inserting a leading edge of a source to be scanned into the aperture formed by the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the channel such that the source is supported along a second edge by the channel.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein pressure is applied to a non-scan surface of the source and the scan surface of the source closely contacts the transparent platen portion.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising enabling the optical scanner to scan the source.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein pressure is removed from the non-scan surface of the source.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising removing the source from the aperture.

26. (Previously presented) A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:

a housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface;

a channel protruding from the housing, said channel having a first surface that is substantially parallel to, and opposed from, said source-contact surface and a second surface that is substantially orthogonal to the first surface; and

a flap coupled to the housing, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the first and second surfaces of the channel form an aperture for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned without necessitating relative movement between the flap and the housing.

27. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the housing contains a front panel with an inclined surface adjacent to the opening, the inclined surface forming a wider opening at the surface of the front panel.

28. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the flap includes an inclined surface adjacent to the opening, the inclined surface arranged to increase the opening along a front edge of the flap, wherein the front edge is substantially perpendicular to the source-backing surface.

29. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the flap includes a slot.

30. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 29, wherein the slot is positioned to permit the placement of a relatively short source document on edge on said channel and wherein information to be scanned from the source document is aligned with at least a portion of a platen.

31. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the housing further comprises a recess configured to receive a portion of said channel when the source-backing surface is in close proximity to the source-contact surface.

32. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said channel has a first end proximal to a front panel of the housing and a distal end that extends at least to a distal edge of a platen.

33. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one post assembly having a plurality of spatially-separated detent positions.

34. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the housing is configured to extend said channel from the source-contact surface when an operator adjusts the source-backing surface in relation to the source-contact surface to increase the width of the aperture.

35. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein the width of said channel at a first end of said channel proximal to a front panel of the housing increases over that portion of said channel that extends beyond a platen.

36. (Previously presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said channel is coated with a material having a relatively low coefficient of friction.

37. (Currently amended) A method for arranging a source in a scanner comprising:

inserting a leading edge of the source into an aperture formed by a channel that protrudes from a housing, the channel having a first surface that is substantially parallel to, and opposed from, a platen of the scanner such that a surface of the source having information thereon that is desired to be imaged by the scanner is adjacent to a sensor arranged in a substantially vertical plane and such that a second edge of the source ~~said leading edge~~ is supported by a base surface of said channel, said base surface extending adjacent to an edge of said platen; and

adjusting the source such that the information desired to be imaged is aligned with the sensor.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

inserting a plug into a slot formed in a flap, the flap substantially parallel with the platen of the scanner; and

enabling the sensor to scan the information.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

removing the plug; and

removing the source from the aperture.

40. (New) A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:

a housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface;

a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing; and

a support track interposed between said housing and said flap, said support track comprising a first member in juxtaposition with the substantially vertical source-contact surface and the source-contact surface, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and said support track form an aperture for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned.

41. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein a portion of the vertical source-contact surface of the housing comprises a platen to permit scanning of a source document in a vertical position.

42. (New) The assembly of claim 41, wherein the platen has an upper edge, an opposing lower edge, a front edge relatively coexistent with a front panel of the housing, and a distal edge and wherein said support track is adjacent to the lower edge of the platen.

43. (New) The assembly of claim 42, wherein said support track has a first end proximal to the front panel of the housing and a distal end that extends at least to the distal edge of the platen.

44. (New) The assembly of claim 42, wherein the width of a first end of said support track proximal to the front panel of the housing increases over that portion of said support track that extends beyond the platen.

45. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein said housing comprises a front panel having an inclined surface adjacent to the aperture.

46. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein the flap comprises an inclined surface adjacent to the aperture.

47. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein the flap comprises a slot.

48. (New) The assembly of claim 47, wherein the slot is positioned to permit the placement of a relatively short source document on edge on said support track wherein information to be scanned is aligned with at least a portion of a platen.

49. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one post assembly having a plurality of spatially separated detent positions.

50. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one adjustable fastener for closely contacting the source-backing surface to the vertical source-contact surface.

51. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein the source-backing surface of the flap comprises a clip arranged to receive a portion of a source document to be scanned.

52. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein the housing further comprises a recess configured to receive a second member of said support track when an operator closely adjusts the source contact surface to the substantially vertical surface of the housing.

53. (New) The assembly of claim 52, wherein the housing is configured to extend said support track from the vertical source-contact surface when an operator adjusts the source-backing surface in relation to the vertical source-contact surface of the housing to increase the width of the aperture.

54. (New) The assembly of claim 40, wherein said support track is coated with a layer of material having a relatively low coefficient of friction.

55. (New) A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:

means for housing an optical scanning means; and

means for forming an aperture configured to closely receive a leading edge of a source along a plane substantially orthogonal to a front surface of the means for housing, such that the source can be spatially arranged with the optical scanning means without adjusting the aperture, the source being supported along a second edge of said source by a support means in the aperture, wherein said support means is interposed between a first source-retaining means and said optical scanning means.

56. (New) The assembly of claim 55, wherein said support means comprises a second source retaining means substantially parallel to the optical scanning means.

57. (New) The assembly of claim 55, wherein the first source retaining means comprises a flap having a slot.

58. (New) The assembly of claim 55, wherein the means for forming an aperture comprises a first inclined surface associated with said means for a housing and a second inclined surface associated with the first source retaining means.

59. (New) A method for saving space on a desktop, comprising:

providing an optical scanner within a housing, the housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface with a support track protruding from the housing, the support track having a first member comprising a first source-backing surface substantially parallel to, and opposed from, said source-contact surface; and

providing a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a second source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, the second source-backing surface substantially parallel to and opposed from, a second surface of the first member, the second source-backing surface also opposed to said first source-backing surface, wherein the source-contact surface, the second source-backing surface, and the first source-backing surface form an aperture for receiving a source to be scanned.

60. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising inserting a leading edge of a source to be scanned into the aperture formed by the source-contact surface, the second source-backing surface, and the support track such that the source is supported along a second edge by the support track.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein the second source-backing surface and the first source-backing surface are juxtaposed to a non-scan surface of the source and a scan surface of the source is juxtaposed to the source-contact surface.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising enabling the optical scanner to scan the source.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising removing the source from the aperture.

64. (New) A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:

a housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface comprising a platen;

a flap coupled to the housing, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing; and

a support track interposed between the source-contact surface and the source-backing surface proximal to a perimeter segment of the platen, said support track comprising a first member having a first surface juxtaposed from the source-contact surface and a second surface juxtaposed from the source-backing surface and a support member, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the support track form an aperture for receiving a first edge of a source to be scanned without necessitating relative movement between the flap and the housing to align a second edge of the source with the perimeter segment of the platen.

65. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the housing contains a front panel with an inclined surface adjacent to the aperture, the inclined surface arranged such that the aperture is larger adjacent to the front panel.

66. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the flap includes an inclined surface adjacent to the aperture, the inclined surface arranged such that the aperture is larger adjacent to a front edge of the flap, wherein the front edge is substantially perpendicular to the source-backing surface.

67. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the flap includes a slot.

68. (New) The assembly of claim 67, wherein the slot is positioned to permit the placement of a relatively short source document on edge on said support track and wherein information to be scanned from the source document is aligned with at least a portion of the platen.

69. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the housing further comprises a recess configured to receive a portion of said support track when the source-backing surface is in close proximity to the source-contact surface.

70. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein said support track has a first end proximal to a front panel of the housing and a distal end that extends at least to a distal edge of the platen.

71. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one post assembly having a plurality of spatially-separated detent positions.

72. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the housing is configured to extend said support track from the source-contact surface when an operator adjusts the source-backing surface in relation to the source-contact surface to increase the width of the aperture.

73. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein the width of said support track at a first end of said support track proximal to a front panel of the housing increases over that portion of said support track that extends beyond the platen.

74. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein an upper surface of said support member is coated with a material having a relatively low coefficient of friction.

75. (New) A method for arranging a source in a scanner comprising:

inserting a leading edge of the source into an aperture formed by a support track that protrudes from a housing, the support track comprising a first member and a second member, the first member having a surface that is substantially parallel to, and opposed from, a platen of the scanner such that a surface of the source having information thereon that is desired to be imaged by the scanner is adjacent to a sensor arranged in a substantially vertical plane and such that said leading edge is supported by an upper surface of the second member, said upper surface extending adjacent to an edge of said platen; and

adjusting the source such that the information desired to be imaged is aligned with the sensor.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising:

inserting a plug into a slot formed in a flap, the flap substantially parallel with the platen of the scanner; and

enabling the sensor to scan the information.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, further comprising:

removing the plug; and

removing the source from the aperture.